

In The Spotlight

Nor-Fab Manufacturing is a Delta County independent machine shop that specializes in precision sheet metal fabrication and laser cutting. They pride themselves on their attention to detail and design as well as their ability to solve the unique fabrication needs of their customers.

Nor-Fab got its start out of a garage in Cornell about 13 years ago. It was pure entrepreneurial spirit and determination that drove Chuck Walkner, founding owner, to pursue his dream of self-employment.

In 1998, Chuck Walkner and his Nor-Fab crew outgrew his garage and moved into a small shop in Bark River. Not long after that move, they were again busting at

CHUCK WALKNER CREATES ENTREPRENEURIAL SUCCESS WITH NOR-FAB

the seams. Seeing the potential of his business, and the short time it took to outgrow their Bark River location, Chuck decided to relocate once again.

This time, he chose to invest in over seven acres in the Gladstone Industrial Park. Currently, there is 5,000 square feet of production floor that includes 3 CNC vertical machining centers, 3 CNC Turning Centers, a Laser, and a CNC Press Break as well as a fully equipped fabrication department.

Nor-Fab's focus is on creating metal enclosures, frames, and restaurant vent covers. They also do the machining for machine and robot enclosures. They do machining to support their fabrication department, which makes them a one-stop shop. In the near future, Chuck would like to expand both physically and in sales. He is currently working on attaining ISO Certification.

Chuck hired his first employee in 1998 and has now grown to 12 employees on two working shifts. He states, "I have sent some of my best employees to Michigan Works! because they take the time to find the right person for the job. He has been working with Michigan Works! for over five years and will continue to do so as needed.

* Mr. Walkner is also one of the founding members of the Central UP-Regional Industrial Manufacturing Skills Alliance. The skills alliance is a group of regional manufacturers who are working together to address common issues throughout the region such as skills and workforce gaps; training & regulatory issues. If you are interested in getting involved in this skills alliance, contact Holly Peoples at 906-789-0558 or hpeoples@jobforce.org.